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9. — 1. *John Brent*. By THEODORE WINTHROP, Author of "Cecil Dreeme." Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1862. 16mo. pp. 359.  
2. *Margret Howth*. *A Story of To-Day*. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1862. 16mo. pp. 266.

"JOHN BRENT" differs widely in plan and execution from "Cecil Dreeme," the first of the posthumous works which have been withdrawn from Major Winthrop's portfolio, but it exhibits the same vigor and originality of thought, and the same skilful command of language; and a more just estimate of the writer's powers may be formed from a comparison of the two works, than can be derived from either, considered separately. "Cecil Dreeme" is not without some obvious defects, as we observed in our last number, though, on the whole, it is a more artistic production than the work now before us; but in the latter we breathe a freer and fresher atmosphere, and it has, perhaps, a more healthful tone. Its scene is laid for the most part in California, and on the homeward road through Utah, and, like the author's previous work, it is understood to have been founded in some measure on his personal experience. The characters are drawn with a masterly touch; the descriptions of scenery have a minuteness of detail and a brilliancy of coloring which show how keen an eye Major Winthrop had for everything that is beautiful in nature and art; and the narrative moves forward with a rapidity which seldom flags, and which holds the reader's interest undiminished to the end. Occasionally we gather glimpses of the writer's personal character, and of his opinions on some of the most important questions that invite the attention of every thoughtful person; and though these opinions are sometimes obtrusively introduced, and must offend many of his readers, they serve to establish a closer relation between writer and reader. Seldom have we read two works of fiction which have given us a higher idea of the writer's ability, or which have caused a more painful feeling of regret at the early death of one who had given such rich and abundant promise of future eminence. A writer who could deliberately lay aside two works like "Cecil Dreeme" and "John Brent" must have felt within himself a strong assurance that he could accomplish far greater things than he had yet attempted. Nor can we doubt that, if Major Winthrop had lived, he would have attained to that height of excellence which he evidently held in view.

"Margret Howth" is said to be the first work of a young lady; but it shows a familiarity with some of the darker experiences of human life which one would scarcely have expected to find in such a writer. It owes its interest mainly to this characteristic, since it deals

with the inner life, rather than with the outward experiences of the various personages to whom we are introduced. The passions which burned within them, and the problems by which their minds were vexed, furnish the groundwork of the story, and there is comparatively little of either narrative, incident, or dialogue; but in the line which the writer has marked out for herself she has achieved a high degree of success. The skill with which she has analyzed some of the strongest of human passions, and shown how they moulded and colored the lives of the different personages in her story, cannot fail of general recognition; and in spite of its want of incidents and its mannerisms in style, no one can read the book without feeling its power, and wishing to know more of so vigorous and subtile a writer.

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10. — *Poems*. By WILLIAM ALLINGHAM. First American Edition. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1861. 32mo. pp. 276. [Blue and Gold.]

WILLIAM ALLINGHAM is one of the most promising of the young Irish poets of the present day. His poems do not, it is true, exhibit much originality of thought or expression, and he has not yet given evidence of the ability to compose a long work; but many of his lyrics have great delicacy of fancy, and an unsurpassed melody of versification. Indeed, the exquisite ease and simplicity of his style must be apparent to the most uncultivated ear; and his pathos is scarcely less noticeable. Many of the songs in the volume before us are among the best productions of their kind in our recent literature; and though the collection is quite small, it comprises nearly twenty pieces which need only to be known to become general favorites. The longest poem in the volume, "The Music Master," is a love-story of about nine hundred lines, and contains some passages of great beauty and tenderness, but as a whole it is inferior to the minor productions.

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11. — *The Alps; or Sketches of Life and Nature in the Mountains*. By H. BERLEPSCH. Translated by the REV. LESLIE STEPHEN, M. A., Fellow and Tutor of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. With 17 Plates from Designs by EMIL RITTMAYER. London: Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts. 1861. 8vo. pp. 407.

THIS volume differs from every other book on the Alps which has fallen under our notice. It is not a mere record of personal adventures or of personal impressions; nor is it a scientific treatise on the geology